

15th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Reading Books added to School Equipment

At Bournville School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils leave our school with a reading age that is in line with their actual age. Reading and Literacy skills are vital for a successful, healthy, and happy future. Regular reading for pleasure is linked to improved exam outcomes, enhanced wellbeing and confidence, and increased future earnings. Recent data indicates that pupils who develop strong reading and writing skills in primary school earn, on average, £65,000 more over their lifetime.

However, we know that 25% of pupils leave primary school without reaching the expected standard in reading. We know that young people are continuing to show a declining trend in their reading habits, with many pupils reporting that they do not ever read at home.

Therefore, we are now adding a reading book to our school equipment requirements. Alongside their planner, pen, pencil, ruler, and green pen, pupils will also need to have a reading book with them in school. This will allow us to support your child to read often and widely for pleasure both in school and at home, whilst being able to talk about reading, share recommendations, and discover new vocabulary and ideas through reading.

How can you support your child to read for pleasure?

Ensuring that your child is a proficient reader is one of the most important things that you can do at home to support their academic development. There are many things that you can do at home to support, including:

- **Listen to your child read.** Many pupils struggle to read fluently, with the correct pace, expression, and emphasis. By providing as little as 10 minutes a day in which you listen to your child read aloud, you will support them to develop reading fluency. Without reading fluently, pupils struggle to comprehend what they read.
- **Create reading routines.** Encourage regular time for reading. Ensure that these routines are consistent. Reducing even 15 minutes of screen time in favour of reading for pleasure can have a huge impact.
- **Surround your child with books.** Studies suggest that pupils engage best with reading for pleasure when they are actively involved in choosing the books that they read. Encourage your child to use the school library, join the local library, and read books that they are interested in.
- **Be a model reader.** Read to your child, and talk to them about the books that you are reading.

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- **Build your child's vocabulary** through conversation and reading.
- **Create a reading log.** Set fun challenges to encourage your child to stay engaged with reading.

We thank you for your continued support in helping to raise the standards of literacy and achievement at Bournville School. Pupils will be given time and support to find and choose a reading book, but pupils who intentionally and repeatedly fail to bring the correct equipment to school will be sanctioned, as per school policy.

If you have any further questions or concerns about your child's reading ability, or would like to support us by donating books to our school library, please feel free to contact me at k.walpole@bournville.fmat.co.uk

Yours faithfully,

kwalpole

Mr K Walpole
Associate Assistant Principal for English

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